*167. [The questioners (Shrimati Maya Singh) was absent. For answer *vide* page 38 *infra*.]

Optimal use of Panchayati Raj System

*168. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:††

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has pointed out for optimal use of the Panchayati Raj set up in the country and called for reforms to delegate more power from States to the Panchayati Raj System;

(b) if so, whether he has pointed out that even today in many States the functions, funds and functionaries have not been delegated effectively to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);

(c) whether he has also urged the States to monitor hurdles against Panchayati Raj Institutions and asked the State Governments to work towards strengthening them; and

(d) if so, action so far taken by States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (c) Yes, Sir. On 2.10.2009, Prime Minister while addressing the National Convention to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Panchayati Raj, stated that Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) need to play a pivotal role in the nation's development. He further stated that the 73rd amendment of the Constitution provides that the Stated legislatures should empower Panchayati Raj Institutions as the institutions of Local Self Government and strengthen them so that they can evolve schemes for social justice and economic development. Even today in many States, the functions, the funds and functionaries have not been delegated effectively to the PRIs. He added that although there may be initial hurdles while delegating new responsibilities to the PRIs, the outcome will be fruitful and in the interest of the country.

(d) According to the provisions of Articles 243G of the Constitution, the State legislatures may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self Government. State legislatures are to consider 29 matters of the Eleventh Schedule for devolution to the Panchayats.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, in the reply, the hon. Minister mentioned that the hon. Prime Minister on 2.10.2009 has clearly mentioned that a number of States are failing to give funds and that the functionaries have not been delegated to the

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

Panchayati-raj institutions. So, I would like to know the names of States; if the Minister has the names readily with him, I would request him to communicate those to us. What action is the Minister taking when the Prime Minister himself has mentioned that so many States are failing and that are not taking the effective steps in the Panchayati-raj system? When are they going to be successful to effectively implement those?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Salary revision of public sector bank employees

*161. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revision of pay scales of employees of public sector banks has become overdue;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) what are the specific reasons for delay in the revision of their salaries;

(d) whether Government is aware that a clerk in the Government of India draws higher salary in comparison to the salary drawn by an officer of a public sector bank;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) by when the salaries of the public sector bank employees are proposed to be revised; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In terms of the 8th Bipartite Settlement, the revision of pay scales of employees of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) has become due with effect from 01.11.2007.

(c) The wage settlement of officers and employees is negotiated by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) representing the managements of such banks, which have mandated it to negotiate on their behalf, with the major workmen Unions/Associations representing the employees and officers. The wage revision exercise includes revision of pay and allowances, basic service conditions, perquisites and retrial benefits etc. The Unions/ Associations present their Charter of Demands to IBN and thereafter negotiations are held by IBN with the Unions/ Associations to arrive at a settlement. It is a time consuming process to resolve the issues. The wage settlement has been signed on 27.11.2009.

(d) and (e) It is not a matter of fact that a clerk in the Central Government draws higher salary then that of an officer in the bank. The salary of a clerk on induction computes to Rs. 11,909/- after revision, while the salary of an officer in the Bank on the pre-revised scale computes to Rs. 17,550/-. Further, the terms and conditions of service of Central Government employees and Bank employees are entirely different and are regulated in terms of the respective